THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) The quantum of decline in India's exports to the East European Countries including CIS, during April-August 1992 as compared to the corresponding period of 1991 is approximately US $ 387 million.

(b) The quantum of annual exports in dollar terms to East European Countries, including USSR/CIS, in 1990-91 was US $ 3253 million, and in 1991-92 US $ 1919 million.

(c) The value of exports to East European Countries, including CIS, from April-August 1992, as latest available, is US $ 341 million.

(d) Government have taken several steps to boost exports to these countries. They are :—

(i) Separate trade agreements and procols have been signed with the majority of the republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

(ii) Greater marketing thrust including more effective participation in Trade Fairs, Exhibitions, Buyer-Seller Meets etc., has been given in the changed economic environment.

(iii) Promotion of direct contracts at the commercial enterprises level, are being encouraged.

(iv) Greater emphasis is being given on new forms of cooperation, such as joint ventures.

(v) A liberal counter-trade mechanism has been put into place by the Ministry of Commerce enabling importers/exporters to buy commodities like certain types of fertilisers, non-ferrous metals, steel items, metal scrap and newsprint through the counter trade regime.

Special Import Licence Scheme

1651. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the special import licence scheme announced recently would benefit only large exporters;

(b) if not, the categories of exporters that would be benefited under the new incentive scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under the new scheme, the exporters are forced to import;

(d) whether Government have received any representation requesting for reinstatement of the old system of cash compensatory support; and

(e) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) The special Import Licence Scheme is applicable to the following categories of exporters :—

(i) Deemed Exports;

(ii) Recognised Export House/Trading Houses/Star Trading Houses;

(iii) Manufacturers who have acquired the ISO 9000 (series) or the BIS 14000 (series) or any other internationally recognised equivalent certification of quality; and

(iv) Exports to Asian Clearing Union (ACU) countries under ACU mechanism.

These licences are freely tradeable in the market. Therefore, if an exporter does not want to make imports against the Special Import Licence, he can transfer this licence to any other person.

(d) and (e) Certain representations were received for continuing the scheme of grant of cash compensatory support on exports. The representations were examined and it was decided not to revive the CCS Scheme.